

# 24+ Advanced Learning Loans

## Briefing: Edition 16 - February 2014

**This is the sixteenth in a series of briefings from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills designed to provide colleges and training organisations and others with information about this policy.** This briefing has been produced jointly with the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency), the Student Loans Company (SLC) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and can be located on the GOV.UK website. Here is the link to the page where learners can apply <https://www.gov.uk/advanced-learning-loans>

### Special edition - Removal of Advanced and Higher Apprenticeships from 24+ Advanced Learning Loans

On 10 February 2014 the Skills Funding Statement announced that Advanced and Higher Apprenticeships for those aged 24 and over will be publicly funded. Having monitored the take up across qualification types since April 2013, there is clear evidence that there is little appetite for Apprenticeships funded by 24+ Advanced Learning Loans. As a result the overall number of people aged over 24 doing Advanced and Higher Apprenticeships has declined compared to the previous year. The Government is keen to ensure that Apprenticeships continue to grow and so is moving quickly to re-instating public funding for Apprenticeships from 7 March 2014. This means:

- those apprentices who have already taken out a Loan will have their Loan cancelled, and their college or training organisation can claim public funding. The text of the letter sent to learners is in the blue box below.
- individuals aged 24 and above wishing to undertake an Apprenticeship from 7 March 2014 onwards will no longer be eligible for a Loan but will apply for a publicly funded course.

Across other areas of learning eligible for 24+ Advanced Learning Loans take up has more than met our expectations. That is why we are continuing with our original plans to grow the numbers of loans in 2014/15. Clearly, many providers have been very successful in delivering loans and we will be providing details of how and why they've been successful, to help others to grow their loans provision.

If learners have queries about this change, they should be directed to their learning provider.

## Changes to how your Apprenticeship is paid for

You may have heard recently that 24+ Advanced Learning Loans will no longer be available to fund Advanced or Higher Apprenticeships. These changes will come into effect from 7 March.

This won't affect your Apprenticeship and your training will continue as expected.

## What this means for you

Instead of having to take out a 24+ Advanced Learning Loan to pay for your Apprenticeship, your college or training organisation will now be funded directly by the Government. You won't need to pay this back.

## Next steps

We'll cancel your 24+ Advanced Learning Loan application. This means you'll have nothing to repay, even if we've already made payments to your college or training organisation. We'll send you a letter separately to confirm the cancellation.

This only applies to 24+ Advanced Learning Loans, if you also have another student loan to fund your Apprenticeship, this will continue unchanged.

Your college or training organisation should have already contacted you and your employer to confirm all of this, but if they haven't you should speak to them straight away.

Any original evidence items you sent us to support your application, will be returned to you as soon as possible.

## **Key contacts**

If you have any questions about government policy on 24+ Advanced Learning Loans, please email [24plusloans@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:24plusloans@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have any questions about the implementation of 24+ Advanced Learning Loans, please contact your Skills Funding Agency relationship manager in the first instance. Or you can email questions to: [advancedlearningloans@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](mailto:advancedlearningloans@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk).

If you have any questions about the administration systems and processes being developed by the SLC, please email [LPservices@slc.co.uk](mailto:LPservices@slc.co.uk).

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